

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1988

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 4

October 20, 1988 - January 10, 1989

The Museum of Modern Art opens the fourth exhibition in its annual NEW PHOTOGRAPHY series on October 20, 1988, featuring recent work by Patrick Faigenbaum of France; Reagan Louie, a Chinese-American; and Michael Schmidt of Germany. Organized by Peter Galassi, curator in the Department of Photography, NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 4 presents photographs that explore a specific community in a specific place, whether foreign or close to home.

On view through January 10, 1989, NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 4 is part of the Springs Industries Series on the Art of Photography at The Museum of Modern Art and is supported by a generous grant from Springs Industries, Inc.

French photographer Patrick Faigenbaum embarked in 1984 on an ambitious project of photographing the Italian aristocracy in their own homes. Working first in Florence and then in Rome, where he was a resident at the French Academy in 1986 and 1987, he made a series of black-and-white portraits portraying this utterly foreign, seemingly anachronistic world. In these dark, unsettling photographs, the long history of each family weighs heavily on its current members, and the tension between past and present is palpable. Faigenbaum plans to complete the series with sojourns in Naples and Venice.

Faigenbaum lives in Paris, where he was born in 1954. Individual exhibitions of his work have been seen at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris (1984); the Villa Medici, Rome (1987); and the French Institutes in Prague, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and London (1986-88). A catalogue

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of his Roman portraits will be published later this fall to accompany an exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Since 1980 Reagan Louie has made more than half a dozen trips to the People's Republic of China, enlisting photography in his search for a personal bond with his father's native land. The color photographs in this exhibition, made in 1986 and 1987, are mostly portraits shot in the street. They record encounters in Louie's unresolved search--moments of connection between the photographer and his now foreign homeland.

Born in 1951 in San Francisco, Louie currently lives in Berkeley and since 1976 has been an instructor in photography at the San Francisco Art Institute. He earned an M.F.A. degree in photography from Yale University in 1975 and has received the James Phelan Art Award (1987) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1988). Since 1978 he has been photographing Asian communities throughout California. Louie's essay, "One Journey to China," was published along with a portfolio of his photographs in Aperture (Spring 1987).

Michael Schmidt has used photography to come to terms with the painful history of post-war Berlin, where he was born in 1945. The photographs in this exhibition, made between 1985 and 1987, were selected from the series Waffenruhe (Ceasefire), a book published in 1987, with text by Einar Schlee. The central protagonist in Schmidt's stark, black-and-white pictures is the Berlin Wall, whose oppressive presence is felt throughout the series.

A self-taught photographer, Schmidt began to make pictures in 1965. In 1976 he founded the Workshop for Photography at the Volkshochschule Kreuzberg in Berlin. He continues to direct the workshop and has taught at the University of Essen and the Haus der Kunst in Berlin. Prior to Waffenruhe, Schmidt published several books concerned exclusively with his native city: Berlin: Stadtlandschaft und Menschen (1978); Berlin-Wedding (1978); and Berlin-

Kreuzberg: Stadtbilder (1984). Other selections from the Waffenruhe series were exhibited at the Berlinische Galerie in 1987 and at the Museum Folkwang, Essen, in 1988.

Devoted to recent work that is not yet widely known, the NEW PHOTOGRAPHY series was initiated in 1985 with an exhibition of work by Zeke Berman, Antonio Mendoza, Judith Ross, and Michael Spano. NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 2 (1986) featured the work of Mary Frey, David Taverner Hanson, and Philip Lorca diCorcia. NEW PHOTOGRAPHY 3 (1987) presented photographs by Paul Graham, Barbara Norfleet, and Thomas Roma.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.